

WI-264

1929

Farmers' and Merchants' Bank
Salisbury
Private

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank building is a fine example of the Art Deco influence in architectural design on the Eastern Shore. Estimated to date to the late 1920s, the limestone front boasts carved eagles perched atop a large glass entrance and window wall that rises two full stories. The eagle tails, abstracted into a linear design, descend on each side of the window wall to frame the large opening. A large bronze seal of the State of Maryland is centered atop the window wall with flaming torches to each side. The name of the former bank remains in large block letters atop the limestone facade.

The history of this property indicates the bank has been located on this lot since the early years of the twentieth century when the directors of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank acquired this parcel in July 1903 from Irving S. and Lizzie Powell, and Samuel E. Gordy and James L. Powell. A bank appears in this location for the first time on the Sanborn Insurance map issued in 1904. During the late 1920s the 1903 building was replaced with the extant limestone and brick building with its Art Deco facade decoration.

In 1962 the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank was merged with the Union Trust Company of Maryland, in whose name the bank operated until it was changed to Signet Bank of Maryland. In 1990 the building ceased to function as a bank and was acquired by GMB Plaza Partnership as an architectural and engineering office.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Farmers' and Merchants' Bank

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-~~273~~ 264

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. WI-264

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Farmers' and Merchants' Bank

and/or common George, Miles, and Buhr Architects and Engineers

2. Location

street & number 206 West Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name GMB Plaza Partnership

street & number 206 West Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, Parcel 1057
liber 1237

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 198

city, town Salisbury state Maryland 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Farmers' and Merchants' Bank building, now the office of the architectural firm of George, Miles, and Buhr, stands at 206 West Main Street in the central business district of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story limestone and brick building faces north.

Dated to 1929, the old Farmers' and Merchants' Bank building is a rectangular masonry structure built with an ashlar limestone front, brick sides, and a poured concrete floor. The walls rise approximately two stories with parapets disguising the flat roof.

The north (main) facade is dominated by a colossal window and entrance wall framed by limestone carved in Art Deco designs. Resting on a polished granite watertable, the limestone front was executed in matched eagles perched atop the corners of the large window wall. The eagle tails extend downward in abstract vertical lines that border the window wall. The eagles are joined at the top of the window wall with flaming torches, which flank a bronze seal of the State of Maryland featuring the date of colony's formation in 1632. The top of the limestone front is carved with the company name, "Farmers and Merchants Bank" in large block letters. Flanking the bank name are carved rectangular panels executed in an abstract floral pattern. The top of the limestone wall is a stepped parapet.

The east side of the building is covered by the neighboring commercial block, but the west side is separated from the adjacent building by a narrow alley. The stretcher bond brick wall is pierced the large window openings now largely blocked.

The interior has been remodeled to suit a modern architectural office. The bank vault is one of the few original features.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The history of this property indicates the bank has been located on this lot since the early years of the twentieth century when the directors of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank acquired this parcel in July 1903 from Irving S. and Lizzie Powell, and Samuel E. Gordy and James L. Powell.(1) A bank appears in this location for the first time on the Sanborn Insurance map issued in 1904.(2) During the late 1920s the 1903 building was replaced with the extant limestone and brick building with its Art Deco facade decoration.

In 1962 the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank was merged with the Union Trust Company of Maryland(4), in whose name the bank operated until it was changed to Signet Bank of Maryland. In 1990 the building ceased to function as a bank and was acquired by GMB Plaza Partnership as an architectural and engineering office.(5)

1 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 38/30, 7/7/1903, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Sanborn Insurance Map, Salisbury, 1904, Maryland State Archive.

3 W. C. Thurston, ed. "Biography-Business: Sketches of Pleasing Personalities in the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County," 1934-35, p. 89.

4 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 13/107, Wicomico County Courthouse.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, 1237/198, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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PS-2746

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Old Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury
(George, Miles, and Buhr Office Building, Union Trust Company of Maryland)
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1057

1237/198

Signet Bank of Maryland, formerly known as
the Union Trust Company of Maryland

to

11/1/1990

GMB Plaza Partnership, a Maryland general partnership

JWTS 13/107

Farmers' and Merchants' Bank

to

7/9/1962

Union Trust Company of Maryland
Articles of Merger

JTT 38/30

Irving S. Powell, and wife Lizzie Powell, Samuel E. Gordy,
James L. Powell

to

7/7/1903

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury

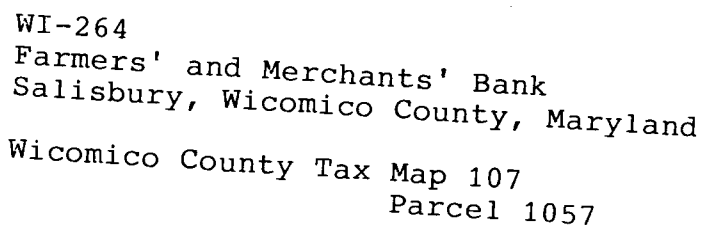
\$4,000 Beginning at a stone on the South side of the said
Main Street, at a point three feet from distant from
the Brewington building on a lot formerly owned
by Henry J. Brewington and now owned by
George W. Todd, thence by and with the south
side of the said Main Street north 88 degrees and
35 minutes east, a distance of Twenty five feet

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Old Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury
206 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

thence in a Southerly direction parallel with the divisional line as established by and between E. E. Jackson and H. L. Brewington and Marion V. Brewington by deed dated 9/9/1897, JTT 21/141, ...being the western part of the lot which was conveyed to the said Irving S. Powell et al. by E. E. Jackson and wife, 1/23/1903, and recorded JTT 34/380.....together with the right, title, and interest of said parties, of the first part, in and to the three foot alley running back from said Main Street between the said "Brewington Building" and the lot hereby conveyed....



A scale bar labeled "SCALE IN FEET" is shown. It has markings at 200, 0, 200, 400, and 600. The bar is divided into segments of alternating black and white colors.

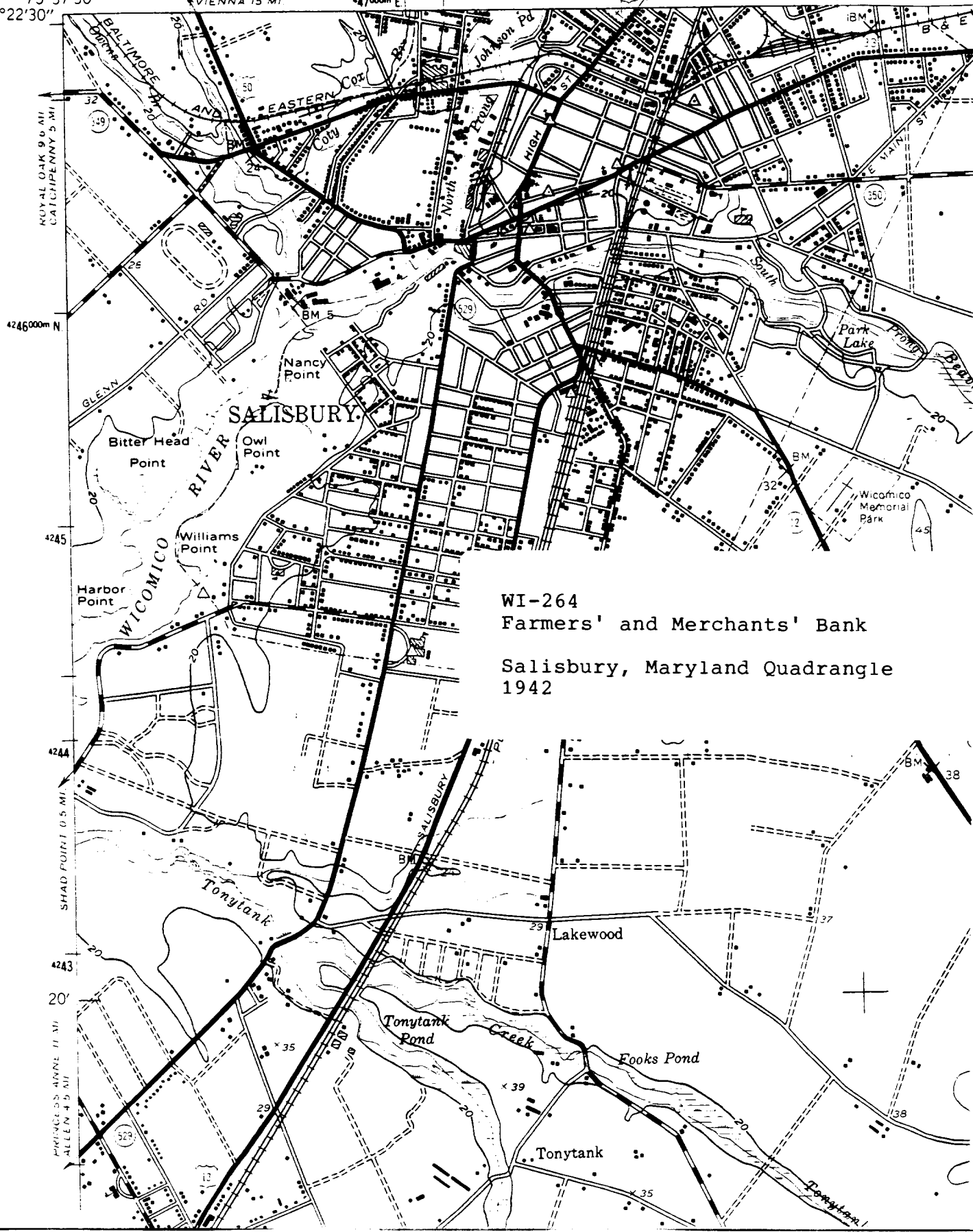
5860' NW
(HEBRON)

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI
VIENNA 15 MI.

47000m F

13 LAUREL 13 MI
DELMAR 6 MI

351



Farmers' and Merchants' Bank

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





